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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following amendment:

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph on Page 10 beginning at line 5 with the following

_text:

 α

Figure 24: Sequence of dm argonaute 2 (SEQ ID NO: 5). Peptides identified by

microsequencing are shown in underline.

The replacement paragraph presented above incorporates changes as indicated by the marked-up version below.